

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A packaging arrangement for a coil of fiberoptic cable which includes a plurality of individual coil loops, comprising:

- a. an outer packaging tray; and
- b. a fiberoptic coil carrier ~~which is removably~~ inserted into the outer packaging tray for shipment or storage, and ~~which can be removed from the tray including~~ a plurality of retainers defining a series of parallel recesses, each of the retainers holding a respective one of the coil loops in the recess defined by the retainer, wherein the carrier provides increased ease of handling of the fiberoptic coil by retaining it with a plurality of separate retainers along the length of the fiberoptic by engaging the fiberoptic cable at a series of separate locations along the cable, such that a selected length coil loop of the fiberoptic cable can be removed from the carrier and while remaining coils loops of the fiberoptic cable remain secured to the carrier.

2. (Original) The packaging arrangement of claim 1, wherein the carrier also defines a connector end retainer for retaining a connector end of the fiberoptic cable, and a treatment end retainer for retaining a treatment end of the fiberoptic cable.

3. (Currently Amended) The packaging arrangement of claim 1, wherein the outer packaging tray is sealed with a top closure, wherein the closure-sealed tray provides for sterilization of the ~~carrier/fiberoptic carrier and fiberoptic~~ carrier/fiberoptic carrier and fiberoptic coil assembly in the outer packaging tray.

4. (Original) The packaging arrangement of claim 1, wherein the carrier is designed and contoured specific to a particular surgical device, and is configured to retain the particular surgical device until it is removed for usage.

5. (Original) The packaging arrangement of claim 4, wherein the outer packaging tray is generic to a plurality of specific carriers and is not specific to a particular carrier for a particular surgical device, such that it can package a standard fiberoptic coil carrier.

6. (Original) The packaging arrangement of claim 1, wherein the carrier includes an attachment means for attaching the carrier to a support, such that a surgeon can position the carrier conveniently to require a minimum of handling.

7. (Original) The packaging arrangement of claim 6, wherein the attachment means comprises a spring clip.

8. (Original) The packaging arrangement of claim 6, wherein the attachment means comprises an adhesive area.

9. (Original) The packaging arrangement of claim 1, wherein the carrier is formed from molded plastic, and includes a plurality of molded individual coil loop retainers, each of which retains and secures a single coil loop of the fiberoptic cable,

which allows each loop to be individually released to eliminate springing, a molded retainer to retain and secure a distal tip of the fiberoptic cable, and a molded retainer to retain and secure a connector handle of the fiberoptic cable.

10. (Withdrawn) The packaging arrangement of claim 9, wherein each individual coil loop retainer is formed by a molded groove.

a 11. (Withdrawn) The packaging arrangement of claim 10, wherein each molded groove defines a pair of opposed undercut shoulders which snap around an inserted individual coil loop.

12. (Original) The packaging arrangement of claim 1, wherein a first recess defines a tip receiver/protector, and a second recess defines a connector handle receiver/protector.

13. (Currently Amended) The packaging arrangement of claim 1, wherein the outer packaging tray comprises a rectangular tray which is thermoformed from plastic, the tray has a bottom surface, sidewalls, and a flange at the a top of and extending around the sidewalls, and the bottom surface is generally flat with shaped relief areas defining one or more depressions to receive a shaped fiberoptic coil carrier.

14. (Original) The packaging arrangement of claim 13, wherein the relief areas accommodate larger components of the fiberoptic cable such as the connector

handle, and also provide sufficient room and clearance to allow fingers to grasp and remove the carrier, and wherein the carrier and fiberoptic coils are supported by intermediate-height plateau surfaces, with the relief areas being positioned below the plateau surfaces.

A 15. (Original) The packaging arrangement of claim 14, wherein raised studs rise above the plateau surfaces to maintain the carrier and fiberoptic coil in position within the tray, and also provide support for a top closure lid which is sealed to a flange extending around the upper perimeter of the sidewalls.

16. (Original) The packaging arrangement of claim 15, wherein at least one flange corner is recessed to provide an unsealed corner piece of the top closure lid which is suitable for grasping to pry the lid away from the tray.

17. (Currently Amended) The packaging arrangement of claim 15, wherein the carrier is generally flat, and is thermoformed from plastic, and the carrier has an exterior profile and shape to fit within the sidewalls and studs and on top of the plateau surfaces of the tray.

18. (Original) The packaging arrangement of claim 13, wherein the carrier has an I shape.

19. (Original) The packaging arrangement of claim 13, wherein the carrier has a Y shape.

20. (Withdrawn) The packaging arrangement of claim 1, wherein the top of the carrier defines a plurality of molded individual coil retainer undercut grooves, an end tip receiver/protector undercut groove, and a connector handle receiver/protector which defines an undercut depression surrounded by raised ridges to retain the connector handle therein.

a. 21. (Original) The packaging arrangement of claim 1, wherein a connector end of the fiberoptic cable is seated in a top portion of the carrier in a recess which is shaped to match the profile of the connector, two opposed thermoformed posts have a negative profile to match a circular barrel of the connector to retain the connector barrel in place therein, the carrier retains individual fiberoptic coils with multiple snap-fit recesses, and one recess has a larger size to secure therein a tip protector at the treatment end of the fiberoptic cable.

22. (Currently Amended) The packaging arrangement of claim ~~22~~ 21, wherein each snap-fit recess is defined by a series of three offsets which have a profile to match the profile of a fiberoptic cable.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of packaging a coil of fiberoptic cable which includes a plurality of individual coil loops, comprising:

a. mounting the fiberoptic coil on a fiberoptic coil carrier, ~~which secures the fiberoptic coil to the carrier with a plurality of separate retainers along the length of the fiberoptic~~ said carrier including a plurality of retainers defining a series of parallel recesses, each of the retainers holding a respective one of the coil loops in the recess defined by the retainer, wherein the carrier engages the fiberoptic cable at a series of separate locations along the cable, such that a selected length coil loop of the fiberoptic cable can be removed from the carrier and while remaining coil loops ~~coils~~ of the fiberoptic cable remain secured to the carrier;

b. packaging the fiberoptic coil carrier with the fiberoptic coil mounted thereon in an outer packaging tray.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, further including securing a connector end of the fiberoptic cable to the carrier with a connector end retainer on the carrier, and securing a treatment end of the fiberoptic cable to the carrier with a treatment end retainer on the carrier.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, further including sealing the outer packaging tray with a top closure, and sterilizing the ~~carrier/fiberoptic carrier and fiberoptic coil assembly~~ in the closure-sealed outer packaging tray.

26. (Original) The method of claim 23, including designing and contouring the carrier to be specific to a particular surgical device, and designing and contouring the outer packaging tray to be generic to a plurality of specific carriers, such that the outer packaging tray can package a standard fiberoptic coil carrier.

A 27. (Original) The method of claim 23, including securing the fiberoptic coil to the carrier with a plurality of individual coil loop retainers which are molded in the carrier, each of which retains and secures a single coil loop of the fiberoptic coil, which allows each individual coil loop to be individually released from the carrier.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, including securing each individual coil loop in a molded groove on the carrier.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 27, including securing each individual coil in a molded groove on the carrier defined by a pair of opposed undercut shoulders which snap around an inserted individual coil loop.

30. (Original) The method of claim 27, including securing a treatment end of the fiberoptic cable in a first molded recess in the carrier defining a treatment end receiver/protector, and securing a connector end of the fiberoptic cable in a second recess in the carrier defining a connector end receiver/protector.

a 31. (Original) The method of claim 23, including packaging the fiberoptic carrier in a rectangular outer packaging tray which has a bottom surface, sidewalls, and a top flange extending around the sidewalls, wherein the bottom surface is generally flat with shaped relief areas defining one or more depressions to receive and support the fiberoptic coil carrier.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, including supporting the carrier and fiberoptic coil on intermediate-height plateau surfaces positioned above the relief areas.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, including maintaining the carrier and fiberoptic coil in position with the tray by raised studs which rise above the plateau surfaces.

34. (Original) The method of claim 31, including sealing a top closure lid to the top flange.